

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05341 051245Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12
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-----075056 051250Z /53

O R 051039Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8720
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY ISLAMBAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5341

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS IR PORS
SUBJ: JUNE 5 STAY-HOME: TEHRAN, OTHER CITIES NEAR NORMAL

REF: TEHRAN 5225 AND 5226 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AS OF 1500 LOCAL TIME, TEHRAN REMAINED QUIET WITH
TRAFFICE ABOUT 80-85 PER CENT OF NORMAL THROUGHOUT CITY,
SPARSER IN BAZAAR AREA. GOI HAD STATIONED POLICE AND ARMY
UNITS IN TRUCKS NEAR BAZAAR KEY INTERSECTIONS, BUT VISIBLE
POLICE PRESENCE IN TOWN LESS THAN DURING MAY 15 QUIET DAY,
AND MOSTLY GONE BY 1400. SITUATION IN ISFAHAN QUIET, BUT
DOWNTOWN PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICLE TRAFFIC 20 PER CENT OF
NORMAL. ONLY VIOLENCE REPORTED IN COUNTRY OVER PAST 24
HOURS WAS IN AHWAZ WHERE VISITING US CONSUL SAW SCENE WHERE
TWO RESTAURANTS HAD BEEN BURNED OUT AND THREE BANK
SADERAT BRANCHES TRASHED EVENING JUNE 4. END SUMMARY.
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1. UP TO 1500 LOCAL TIME, "STAY-HOME DAY" IN TEHRAN
HAS BEEN QUIET, BUT WITH TRAFFIC AND PEOPLES' PRESENCE
IN TOWN RUNNING ABOUT 80-85 PER CENT OF NORMAL. AFTER
HOLDING THEIR BREATH MOST OF MORNING, MOST TEHRANIS
ARE BEGINNING TO JOKE ABOUT ANOTHER NON-EVENT.

2. IN TEHRAN, ARMY AND POLICE WERE PRESENT AT KEY POINTS IN SOUTH TEHRAN DURING EARLY MORNING RUSH. NORMAL UNIT OF OPERATION WAS TRUCKLOAD OF SOLDIERS ACCOMPANIED BY COMMAND JEEP. AS DAY WORE ON AND NOTHING HAPPENED, POLICE PRESENCE BEGAN TO THIN OUT, AND TOUR OF SOUTHERN AREAS CONCLUDED AT 1400 SAW NO RPT NO EVIDENCE OF POLICE OR ARMY PRESENCE BEYOND NORMAL STREET PATROLS. BAZAAR WAS SLOW OPENING, BUT BY NOON, MOST BAZAAR SHOPS AS WELL AS ALL OTHERS WERE OPEN AND BUSINESS WAS IN FULL SWING. WHILE SOME FOLKS OBVIOUSLY STAYED HOME, NET EFFECT IN TEHRAN WAS TO LIGHTEN MORNING SHOPPING TRAFFIC AND MAKE CITY MORE BEARABLE. UNIVERSITIES IN TEHRAN WERE QUIET DURING LATE MORNING TOUR BY EMBASSY LOCAL, WITH NO SIGNS OF BREWING STORM.

3. IN ISFAHAN, TOWN WAS MUCH QUIETER, BUT THERE WERE NO TROUBLES. ISFAHAN UNIVERSITY CLOSED FOR THREE DAYS BEGINNING JUNE 4, AND THERE WAS HEAVY POLICE PRESENCE IN DOWNTOWN AREAS. PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC WAS ABOUT 20 PER CENT OF NORMAL ACCORDING TO CONSULATE. SHIRAZ CONSULATE REPORTED NORMAL DAY, BUT WITH SOME BAZAAR SHOPS CLOSED. EVENING JUNE 4 SAW SEVERAL FLYERS DISTRIBUTED WHICH STRONGLY CRITICIZED SHAH'S REGIME AND "FOREIGN RUNNING DOGS." THIS HAS BEEN ONLY ANTI-FOREIGN SIGN IN EVENTS TO DATE. IN FACT, ONLY VIOLENCE REPORTED IN COUNTRY OVER PAST 24 HOURS
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APPARENTLY WAS IN AHWAZ, WHERE VISITING U.S. CONSUL MCNAUL SAW EVIDENCE OF TRASHING OF THREE BANK SADERAT BRANCHES AND LOCATIONS WHERE TWO WESTERN-STYLE RESTAURANTS HAD BEEN BURNED OUT EVENING JUNE 4. TABRIZ WAS VIRTUALLY CLOSED UP JUNE 5, AND "STAY-HOME" APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MOST SUCCESSFUL THERE.

4. STRAY RUMORS STILL ABOUND THAT AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI WILL RETURN TO IRAN BY FOOT TO QOM. MORE ELABORATE VERSION HAS HIM FLYING TO QOM TO LEAD A MARCH ON TEHRAN. MOSQUES QUIET, HOWEVER, AND INDICATIONS ARE THAT STORIES OF KHOMEINI RETURN BELONG ON LIGHT FICTION SHELF.
SULLIVAN

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